



Dublin Aug. 28 1865

My dear Mr. May, I received your note today enclosing in the same envelope a letter for Mrs Taylor which I will send forward by to-day's mail to London. At the same time I had a few lines from my friend & relative Mr Theodore F. Hook, Franklin, Putnam County Ohio, which I send you, as it will explain itself. I have written him the letter which you hereunto. I would take it as a favor if you could find him any assistance by putting him in the way of documents or authorities likely to be of use in the subject he has in view. I know of no one as honest, upright, impartial, & devoted which I would more entirely rely in the prosecution of such a work as has been suggested to him. I think he should try the London Ethnological Journal which contains contributions hostile to the intellectual claims of the negro to equality with the Caucasians. Major Burton, the Egyptian traveller, & Mr Palmer the Arabian traveller are evidently of this way of thinking. I myself do not believe in the intellectual equality of the two races of mankind - though if the inequality exists it constitutes no ground for cruelty or injustice.

I am and always have been in favor of
negro suffrage - & I could see how plain &
much can be had out the truth unless the
negro is enfranchised politically - I mean
as a voter as well as a man.

My family are now suffering from a severe
calamity. A fine young man Frederick
Harvey, now nephew to our dear wife & to
Mrs Palmer, was drowned last Sunday
while bathing. His sister, my daughter &
some other pieces of mine were with him
the only such relation as a short trip by
the beach & were about to take a picnic
dinner. While the girls were getting
ready, he went round a point & bathed. The
waves were high, and though he was a good
swimmer, some men who looked on saw him
struggle & sink - after a while his thin
body was floated ashore to the shore. He was
a fine, intelligent, good natured, good young
fellow & was greatly beloved in his family
& by his friends, relations & friends. His
two brothers were away on excursion - one
in the West of Ireland - another in Switzerland.
Alfred met the first of them at the Seminars
& told him the news & accompanied him to
Walsford where he has been of great use by
his helpfulness & sympathy. His eldest
brother has not yet returned - we expect him today.

I have turned over the "Gentle Life" of a full of pictures, some

very remarkable about America. This book I have been told up by many of our friends
I have heard the writer name but do not remember it

I have turned over the "Gentle life" of a full of vitality, feeling, sense, and
I have turned about America. The book has been cut up by many of our Americans
I have heard the writers name but do not remember it.

You will also be sure to hear that
within the last two weeks I have had
several attacks of heart disease. I thought
my heart was strong & I took as much as ever I
did & am as clear in my head, I am unable
to walk many paces without great
discomfort & even pain. I know if I were
to attempt a mile I should never get to the
end of it. One physician threatens me
with angina pectoris - another says that
my circulation is extremely slow which
I fear is the case. I have spoken to one
hydropath & one allopathic physician
- both the foremost of their kind. The
treatment they propose is opposite. One is
for food & exercise - another for Feltz's Bitters &
Turkish bitters & I don't know what to do
between them. However I have tried to
settle my affairs & to have things as straight
as I can if anything should happen me.

It is wonderful how blind we are as to
the infinite future which stretches out
before us as well as that which has been
in.

A young Turkman, a friend of mine &
of my children, was recently ill of rheumatism
below St 205, Washington Street, Boston. His
name is William Faber, his business lithographic printing.

My father will see that this letter reaches you (the 15th).
He has written particularly to write - but I don't know how to do it. I will write to him. I will write to him. I will write to him.

A friend of his wrote to tell me of his illness - but I have since heard nothing of his recovery or of his present condition. I would be very glad if you could ascertain for me.

Don't trouble yourself about these small commissions for Alfred is for me. If it is in your way to see into them with good. If not, we are especially sure of your good will.

When sitting at my desk or lounging about I feel as well as ever - but as soon as I attempt to walk or to make any muscular exertion I feel fatigued, distressed, & overdone.

With kind regards to you all I am
Yours affectionately

Richd D Webb

My father is now on a visit with me - partly to his new habitation, some in the Dublin of Manufacturers & Furniture - but I believe principally to see his old friends. While my daughters are away in Waterford partaking in the family affliction for the loss of their cousin, my daughters are now under home for me. I think I must ask Miss E. to send you a few lines & fill up the letter to its utmost capacity.

To R. D. Webb
Major General
J. A. Garfield, now
one of the members
of Congress for Ohio,
lately wrote to me
a letter of which
this is an extract:
"I have a mind to
suggest a work to
you which will be
of great service
we need thorough
& exhaustive
statistics of the
status of the Negro
in all the civilized
countries of the
world. I may be
mistaken, but I
am inclined to
believe that no
will be found that
are the only
nation who
discriminate against
color. Can you
do the work, but
suggest and is
allow me to use it
or give it to the
public myself
in some popular
shape, if with
you would.
Now, I would be
more than willing
to undergo the
labor of investigation
collecting data &
digesting them
into a compact &
readable shape."

But I do not
know where the
sources of information
lie in this country
place. I have no
access to any
large public
library. I have
written to Parker
Pillsbury, to ask
him if he can
help me in
those known of any
book or pamphlet
on that subject
or where one can
to look for
material? If so,
send me word for
the sake of the
cause. J. A. Garfield
writes in the same
letter - "If I
could the signs of
the times aright,
the lower of the
rights of human
nature have a
great battle before
them. I fear our
party (Republican)
will divide on
the question of
Negro Suffrage
and that a long
struggle is before
us." I most interesting
life of Thoreau Man
by his widow has
just appeared.
Write to E. S. Suber